



# RULE-MAKING ORDER

CR-103 (June 2004)  
(Implements RCW 34.05.360)

Agency: Washington State Patrol

☒ Permanent Rule  
☐ Emergency Rule

Effective date of rule:

Permanent Rules

☒ 31 days after filing.  
☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Effective date of rule:

Emergency Rules

☐ Immediately upon filing.  
☐ Later (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?

☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes, explain:

Purpose:

- 1) The purpose is to add an additional category of fire sprinkler contractor designed to allow work exclusively on the inspection and testing of Water Based Fire Sprinkler Systems, and to require a person performing the inspection and testing of Water Based Fire Sprinkler Systems to be certified at a minimum level of competency by the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- 2) Add a section exempting State licensed Backflow Assembly Testers from the requirements of the fire sprinkler contractor law while they are performing inspection, testing, and maintenance of back flow devices.

Citation of existing rules affected by this order:

Repealed:

Amended: WAC 212-80, Fire Sprinkler System Contractors

Suspended:

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 43.43 and RCW 18.160

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE ONLY (Including Expedited Rule Making)

Adopted under notice filed as WSR ~~05-07-101~~ on March 23, 2005 (date).

Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version:

→ 05-11-107 on 5/18/05

WAC 212-80-175 (3), Notarized affidavits from the applicant attesting that in the last three years he/she has had a minimum of four thousand hours experience in the installation, inspection, and/or testing of fire sprinkler systems.

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:

Name:

Address:

phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY RULE ONLY

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds:

- ☐ That immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.
- ☐ That state or federal law or federal rule or a federal deadline for state receipt of federal funds requires immediate adoption of a rule.

Reasons for this finding:

Date adopted:

8/15/05

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

John R. Batiste

SIGNATURE

*Paul S. Beckley*

CODE REVISER'S OFFICE  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
CODE REVISER USE ONLY

AUG 16 2005

TIME

8:25

WSR

05-17-099

AM

PM

**Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero.  
No descriptive text.**

Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note.  
A section may be counted in more than one category.

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

Federal statute:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Federal rules or standards:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Recently enacted state statutes:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____

The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in the agency's own initiative:

New	<u>15</u>	Amended	<u>27</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

New	<u>15</u>	Amended	<u>27</u>	Repealed	_____
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The number of sections adopted using:

Negotiated rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Pilot rule making:	New	_____	Amended	_____	Repealed	_____
Other alternative rule making:	New	<u>15</u>	Amended	<u>27</u>	Repealed	_____

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

WAC 212-80-010 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this regulation:

((+1)) "Authority having jurisdiction (AHJ)" means the organization, office, or individual responsible for approving layout drawings, equipment, an installation or a procedure. Usually the AHJ is the building and/or fire official of the city or county in which the job site is located. In certain cases, such as health care facilities, transient accommodations and day care facilities, the AHJ is the city or county building and/or fire official and the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

((+2)) "Citation" means written notification issued by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, pursuant to RCW 18.160.040 to issue a civil penalty for a violation of any provision of chapter 18.160 RCW. A citation may include, but is not limited to, a description of the violation(s) and a notice of civil penalty assessment.

((+3)) "Director of fire protection" means the state fire marshal and/or his or her authorized representative.

((+4)) "Dry pipe sprinkler system" means a system employing automatic sprinklers attached to a piping system containing air or nitrogen under pressure, the release of which (as from the opening of a sprinkler) allows the water pressure to open a valve known as a dry pipe valve. The water then flows into the piping system and out to the open sprinkler(s).

((+5)) "Fire protection sprinkler system" means an assembly of underground and/or overhead piping beginning at the connection to the primary water supply, whether public or private, that conveys water with or without other agents to dispersal openings or devices to extinguish, control, or contain fire or other products of combustion. The fire protection sprinkler system (with the exception of residential combination systems) starts at the point where the last nonfire water use is taken from the supply mains. This is the point just down stream of the last tap for domestic or process water, the last water control valve that is required by a city or other authority, or the point where the water can be considered nonflowing.

((+6)) "Fire pump" means a listed pump supplying water at the flow and pressure required by water based fire protection systems.

((+7)) "((~~For design only~~)) FOR DESIGN ONLY" means a certificate of competency holder only allowed to perform the design of a fire protection sprinkler system consistent with the level of certification he or she holds. In the case of a "State Level U certification," "((~~for design only~~)) FOR DESIGN ONLY" ((just)) merely

allows the individual to maintain their certification.

((+8+)) "Formal hearing" means a hearing before a hearing officer where laws, rules, and evidence are presented, considered, and a decision is rendered.

((+9+)) "Hazard" means a condition which could result in injury or death to a person and/or damage to property.

((+10+)) "Hearings request" means the written request for a formal hearing to contest a civil penalty.

((+11+)) "Inspection" means a visual examination of a fire protection sprinkler system, or portion of the system, to verify that the system appears to be in operating condition, is free from physical damage, and complies with the applicable statutes and regulations adopted by the state.

((+12+)) "Instance" means the number of times a person has been cited for a violation of chapter 18.160 RCW or this chapter. These will be identified as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd instances.

((+13+)) "Maintenance" means work performed on a fire suppression sprinkler system to keep the equipment operable, or to make repairs.

((+14+)) "NFPA" means the National Fire Protection Association.

((+15+)) "NFPA 13D" means, in addition to the definition contained in chapter 18.160 RCW, the inclusion of minor accessory uses such as garages normally found in residential occupancies.

((+16+)) "NFPA 13R" means whatever standard that is used by the National Fire Protection Association for the installation and design of fire suppression sprinkler systems in residential occupancies up to and including four stories in height.

((+17+)) "NFPA 13" means whatever standard that is used by the National Fire Protection Association for the installation and design of fire suppression sprinkler systems in commercial or high occupancy facilities.

((+18+)) "NFPA 20" means whatever standard that is used by the National Fire Protection Association for the selection and installation of pumps, both centrifugal and positive displacement, that supply liquid for a private fire protection system.

((+19+)) "NFPA 24" means whatever standard that is used by the National Fire Protection Association for the installation of the dedicated underground fire service main of a water based fire protection system.

((+20+)) "NFPA 25" means whatever standard that is used by the National Fire Protection Association for the inspection, testing, and maintenance of water based fire protection systems.

((+21+)) "NICET" means the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies.

((+22+)) "Person" means one or more individuals, legal representatives, partnerships, joint ventures, associations, corporations (whether or not organized for profit), business trusts, or any organized group of individuals and includes the state, state agencies, counties, municipal corporations, school districts, and other public corporations.

((+23+)) "Preaction system" means a sprinkler system employing automatic sprinklers attached to a piping system containing air,



which may or may not be under pressure, with a supplemental detection system installed in the same areas as the sprinklers.

((24)) "Qualified" shall mean an individual who has demonstrated through education, training, examination, and/or national certifications the competency, skill, and ability necessary to perform any work covered and/or defined by this chapter and chapter 18.160 RCW to the satisfaction of a relevant jurisdiction. In matters of compliance with the licensing and certification requirements of this chapter and chapter 18.160 RCW, the relevant jurisdiction shall be the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

((25)) "Revoke" means the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall rescind a company's license or an individual's certification from them. Such action causes said company or individual to cease any and all work in the sprinkler field in Washington state until such time as the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, is satisfied with the resolution of the issue which caused the license or certificate to be revoked.

((26)) "State fire marshal" means the director of fire protection or his/her authorized representative.

((27)) "State Level I certification" means a certificate of competency holder who is qualified to prepare layout drawings, install, inspect, test, maintain, or service an NFPA 13D fire protection sprinkler system or any part of such a system.

((28)) "State Level I licensing" means a sprinkler contracting company licensed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to contract and/or offer to bid on the design, installation, service, maintenance, and/or inspection of a NFPA 13D fire protection sprinkler system or any part of such a system.

((29)) "State Level II certification" means a certificate of competency holder who is qualified to prepare layout drawings, install, inspect, test, maintain, or service an NFPA 13D and/or an NFPA 13R fire protection sprinkler system or any part of such a system.

((30)) "State Level II licensing" means a sprinkler contracting company licensed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to contract and/or offer to bid on the design, installation, service, maintenance, and/or inspection of a NFPA 13D and/or a NFPA 13R fire protection sprinkler system or any part of such a system.

((31)) "State Level III certification" means a certificate of competency holder who is qualified to prepare layout drawings, install, inspect, maintain, or service an NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13, or all other systems per the definition of fire protection sprinkler system in chapter 18.160 RCW.

((32)) "State Level III licensing" means a sprinkler contracting company licensed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to contract and/or offer to bid on the design, installation, service, maintenance, and/or inspection of a NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13, or all other systems per the definition of a fire protection sprinkler system in

chapter 18.160 RCW.

((+33+)) "State certified fire sprinkler system inspection and testing technician" ("ITT") means a state certificateholder who is qualified to inspect and/or test NFPA 13D, 13R, or 13, wet and dry pipe fire protection systems per the definition of fire protection sprinkler system in this chapter. However, testing of other fire protection systems such as preaction, deluge, foam, or fire pump and maintenance of any type of system defined under this chapter or chapter 18.160 RCW shall be performed only by contractors who are also qualified and licensed to design and install that type of system or fire pump.

"State level inspection and testing contractor licensing" means a sprinkler contracting company licensed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to contract and/or offer to bid on the inspection or testing of a wet or dry pipe NFPA 13 - D, NFPA 13 - R, NFPA 13, or other systems per the definition of a fire protection sprinkler system in chapter 18.160 RCW. However, the testing and maintenance of fire protection systems such as preaction, deluge, foam, or fire pumps, shall be performed only by contractors who are also qualified and licensed to design and install that type of system or fire pump being tested or maintained.

"State Level U certification" means a certificate of competency holder who is qualified to certify the installation of the underground portions of fire protection sprinkler systems in conformance with recognized standards adopted by the director of fire protection.

((+34+)) "State Level U licensing" means a sprinkler contracting company licensed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to contract and/or offer to bid on the installation of the underground portions of fire protection sprinkler systems in conformance with the recognized standards adopted by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

((+35+)) "Suspend" means the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, holds a license or certificate inactive until such time as the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, feels confident that the company or individual is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and chapter 18.160 RCW.

((+36+)) "Testing" means a procedure used to determine the status of a system as intended by conducting periodic physical checks on water-based fire protection systems such as waterflow tests, fire pump tests, alarm tests, and trip tests of dry pipe, deluge, or preaction valves. These tests follow up on the original acceptance test at intervals specified in the appropriate chapter of NFPA 25.

((+37+)) "Type" means the classification of violation as minimal, moderate, and severe. These are identified as Types I, II, and III respectively.

((+38+)) "Violation" means ((a specific or general)) any action, general or specific, inconsistent with the intent and letter of chapter 18.160 RCW and this chapter and shall be further

defined as:

(a) "Minimal violation" means a Type I violation which poses a minor hazard or threat to life and property in the event of a fire.

(b) "Moderate violation" means a Type II violation which poses a significant hazard or threat to life or property in the event of a fire.

(c) "Severe violation" means a Type III violation which poses a substantial hazard or threat to life or property in the event of a fire.

((39)) "Wet pipe sprinkler system" means a sprinkler system employing automatic sprinklers attached to a piping system containing water and connected to a water supply so that water discharges immediately when any sprinkler is opened by heat from a fire.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

WAC 212-80-015 Compliance. All fire sprinkler system contractors, certificate of competency holders, and persons installing, inspecting, maintaining, or servicing fire protection sprinkler systems or any part of such a system shall comply with the provisions of this regulation.

EXCEPTIONS:

(1) Federal, state, and local government employees, or insurance inspectors when acting in their official capacities.

(2) A person or organization acting under court order.

(3) A person or organization that sells or supplies products or materials to a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor.

(4) A registered professional engineer acting solely in a professional capacity.

(5) A properly qualified and/or trained employee of a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor performing duties for the contractor. Said qualifications and/or training to be consistent with the level of work performed by the licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor.

(6) An owner/occupier of a single-family residence performing his or her own installation in that residence. It is the intent of this subsection that builders or contractors will not install their own sprinkler systems in single-family residences under their ownership which they plan to sell, lease, or rent.

(7) An employee of a facility or owner who is qualified to the satisfaction of the local authority having jurisdiction to perform inspection and testing of fire protection sprinkler systems in said facility.

(8) An employee of a licensed electrical contractor installing



or testing only the electronic signaling devices of a fire sprinkler system.

(9) A person, licensed by the Washington state department of health, under chapter 246-292 WAC, as a certified backflow assembly tester, performing testing and maintenance of backflow assemblies.

(10) A person licensed by the Washington state department of health, under chapter 246-292 WAC, as a certified backflow assembly tester, and also licensed by the Washington state department of labor and industries, under chapter 18.106 RCW, as a backflow specialty plumber performing repairs of backflow assemblies in accordance with chapter 246-290 WAC.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-018 License and certification requirements.** Only a company or individual licensed as a fire protection sprinkler systems contractor, who has at least one designer on staff certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, can bid, offer to bid, contract, or perform the designing, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and/or servicing of a fire protection sprinkler system.

EXCEPTION: A company or individual licensed as an inspection and testing contractor, whose staff performing the work of inspection and/or testing of a fire protection sprinkler system have all been certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as described in this chapter, can bid, offer to bid, contract, or perform only the testing and inspection of a fire protection sprinkler system - excluding preaction, deluge, or foam systems or systems with fire pumps.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order 91-06, filed 7/1/91, effective 8/1/91)

**WAC 212-80-020 Right of appeal.** Any person who is aggrieved by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection suspending or revoking the privilege of a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor or the certificate of a certificate of competency holder to engage in fire protection sprinkler system business, may appeal to the director within thirty days of the date of the order.



AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-028 License and certificate posting.** Each license and certification issued under this regulation must be posted in a conspicuous place in the fire protection sprinkler system contractor's place of business. The wallet card issued to a certificate of competency holder and/or an inspection and testing technician under this chapter will be maintained with the certified individual it was issued to and available for review at any time.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-038 Municipality, county, or state regulations.**  
(1) Nothing in this regulation limits the power of a municipality, county, or state to regulate the quality and character of work performed by contractors through a system of permits, fees, and inspections which are designed to assure compliance with and aid in the implementation of state and local building laws or to enforce other local laws for the protection of the public health and safety.

(2) Nothing in this regulation limits the power of the municipality, county, or the state to adopt any system of permits requiring submission to and approval by the municipality, county, or the state of layout drawings and specifications for work to be performed by contractors before commencement of the work.

(3) The official authorized to issue building or other related permits shall ascertain that the fire protection sprinkler system contractor is duly licensed by requiring evidence of a valid fire protection sprinkler system contractor's license and a valid certificate of competency stamp consistent with the contractor's license.

(4) This regulation applies to any fire protection sprinkler system contractor performing work for any municipality, county, or the state.

(5) Officials of any municipality, county, or the state are required to determine compliance with this regulation before awarding any contracts for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, service, alteration, fabrication, or addition(~~(, or inspection)~~) of a fire protection sprinkler system.

**WAC 212-80-043** Qualifications for preparation of layout drawings, installations, inspections, testing, maintenance, or servicing. (1) Only licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractors shall execute contracts for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, or servicing of fire protection sprinkler systems or any part of such a system in the state of Washington.

Exception: A company or individual licensed as an inspection and testing contractor, whose staff performing the work of inspection and testing of a fire protection sprinkler system have all been certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as described in this chapter, can bid, offer to bid, contract, or perform only the testing and inspection of a fire protection sprinkler system - excluding preaction, deluge, or foam systems or systems with fire pumps.

(2) Only licensed contractors who have achieved at least State Level U licensure shall execute contracts for the installation, inspection, maintenance and/or servicing of the underground portions of fire protection sprinkler systems in the state of Washington.

(3) Only licensed fire protection sprinkler contractors who have achieved at least State Level I licensure shall execute contracts for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance and/or servicing of NFPA 13D fire protection sprinkler systems or any part of such a system in the state of Washington.

(4) Only licensed fire protection sprinkler contractors who have achieved at least State Level II licensure shall execute contracts for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance and/or servicing of NFPA 13D or NFPA 13R fire protection sprinkler systems or any part of such a system in the state of Washington.

(5) Only licensed fire protection sprinkler contractors who have achieved at least State Level III licensure shall execute contracts for the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance and/or servicing of NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13, and all other systems per the definition of fire protection sprinkler system in chapter 18.160 RCW or any part of such a system in the state of Washington.

(6) Only those certificate of competency holders who have achieved State Level U certification shall supervise and/or certify the installation of underground supplies to fire protection sprinkler systems. To achieve State Level U certification, persons shall satisfactorily complete an examination administered by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(7) Only those certificate of competency holders who have achieved at least State Level I certification shall supervise and/or certify the preparation of layout drawings, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, servicing, or the installation of NFPA 13D fire protection sprinkler systems or any part thereof. To achieve State Level I certification, persons shall hold a current NICET Level 2 classification or satisfactorily complete an examination administered by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(8) Only those certificate of competency holders who have achieved at least State Level II certification shall supervise and/or certify the preparation of layout drawings, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, servicing, or the installation of NFPA 13D and NFPA 13R fire protection sprinkler systems or any part thereof. To achieve State Level II certification, persons shall hold a current NICET Level 2 classification.

(9) Only those certificate of competency holders who have achieved at least State Level III certification shall supervise and/or certify the preparation of layout drawings, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, servicing, or the installation of NFPA 13D, NFPA 13R, NFPA 13, and all other systems per the definition of fire protection sprinkler system in chapter 18.160 RCW or any part thereof. To achieve State Level III certification, persons shall hold a current NICET Level 3 or 4.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-053 Licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor.** To become a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor under this regulation, a person or firm must comply with the following:

(1) Must be or have in his or her full-time employ a holder of a valid certificate of competency whose level is consistent with the license level.

(2) Make application to the director of fire protection on forms provided and pay the fees required.

(3) Meet the bonding requirements of WAC ((212-80-125)) 212-80-078.

(4) Be licensed as a contracting company in the state of Washington by the department of labor and industries and possess the twelve digit alphanumeric business license number assigned by that agency.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-078 Contractor surety bonds.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection shall not issue a license under this regulation unless:

(a) The fire protection sprinkler system contractor, to be licensed as a Level III or Level "U" fire protection sprinkler system contractor, files with the chief of the Washington state



patrol, through the director of fire protection a surety bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, conditioned to compensate third-party losses caused by the acts of the principal or the principal's servant, officer, agent, or employee in conducting the business registered or licensed under this regulation; or

(b) The fire protection sprinkler system contractor, to be licensed for Level I and/or Level II systems or a contractor to be licensed as an inspection and testing contractor, files with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection a surety bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington, in the sum of six thousand dollars, conditioned to compensate third-party losses caused by the acts of the principal or the principal's servant, officer, agent, or employee in conducting the business registered or licensed under this regulation.

(2) Upon approval by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, property or cash may substitute for a surety bond provided the value matches the appropriate level of bonding required for the level of work to be performed. The value of property shall be determined by an appraiser selected by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. All appraisal fees shall be paid by the fire protection sprinkler system contractor.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-083 Stamps for NFPA 13D, 13R, and 13 systems.** (1) Sprinkler system plans, calculations, and contractors' materials and test certificates submitted to the authority having jurisdiction shall be stamped pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(2) At least one set of approved plans and calculations, containing information as specified in subsection (3) of this section, ~~((and calculations))~~ shall be maintained on the job site while the work is being performed.

(3) Stamps shall be issued by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection and shall contain the name and certification number of the certificate of competency holder, name and license number of the holder's employer, the expiration date of the current certificate, a place for the signature of the certificate of competency holder and the date of the signature. On all plans the stamp shall be easily recognizable and visible.

(4) An original stamp and signature shall appear on each page of plans, on the cover sheet of hydraulic calculations and on all

test certificates for fire protection sprinkler systems submitted to the authority having jurisdiction.

(5) Plans and calculations for "underground only" portions of fire protection sprinkler systems submitted to the authority having jurisdiction by a State Level U licensed fire protection sprinkler contractor shall be stamped by either a licensed professional engineer registered in the state of Washington or the appropriate level certificate of competency holder and the State Level U certificate of competency holder employed by the submitting contractor.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-093 Certificate of competency certification.** To become a certificate of competency holder under this regulation, an applicant must either:

(1) For State Level 1 certification, have satisfactorily passed with a final score of eighty percent or better an examination administered by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection or show evidence of passing the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies element requirements for Level 2 certification in fire protection system layout design.

(2) For State Level U certification, have satisfactorily passed with a final score of eighty percent or better an examination administered by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(3) Be a registered professional engineer acting solely in a professional capacity. Such engineer shall comply with all other requirements of this regulation including payment of fees, completion of the application process, and supplying the director of fire protection with proof that the applicant holds a current, valid state of Washington registration as a professional engineer. Upon completion of the above requirements, the engineer will be granted an equivalency certificate to that of State Level III; or

(4) Present a copy of a current certificate from the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies showing that the applicant has achieved the classification. State Level 2 certification requires a minimum certification from the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies of Level 2 in the field of fire protection automatic sprinkler system layout or better. State Level 3 certification requires either Engineering Technician, Level 3 or Senior Engineering Technician, Level 4 in the field of fire protection automatic sprinkler system layout.

(5) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection may accept equivalent proof of qualification in lieu of the examination requirements.

(6) Proof of competency to the satisfaction of the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection ~~((are))~~ is mandatory.

(7) Every applicant for a certificate of competency shall fulfill the requirements established by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection under chapter 18.160 RCW.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

WAC 212-80-113 Certificate of competency employment. (1) In no case shall a certificate of competency holder be employed full time by more than one fire protection sprinkler system contractor at the same time.

(2) If the certificate of competency holder should leave the employment of the fire protection sprinkler system contractor, he or she shall notify the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection within thirty days of ~~((the))~~ his or her last day of employment.

(3) Should any individual who meets the criteria to be a certificate of competency holder as defined by this chapter and chapter 18.160 RCW wish to be certified to perform design work only, he or she may request to work as a "FOR DESIGN ONLY" certificate of competency holder. This certification can also be utilized to maintain state certification, as in the case of the State Level U certification.

**FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS INSPECTION AND TESTING CONTRACTOR**

NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-133 Sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor. To become a licensed sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor under this regulation, a person or firm must comply with the following:

(1) Make application to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, on forms provided and pay the fees required.

(2) Meet the bonding requirements of WAC 212-80-125.



(3) Be licensed as a contracting company in the state of Washington by the department of labor and industries and provide the twelve digit alphanumeric business license number to the state fire marshal or his or her designee.

(4) Have each individual working as an inspection and testing technician certified as "qualified" by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as defined by this chapter.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 212-80-138 Sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor--Work allowed by this license.** Any company that becomes licensed as a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor is allowed to contract for or offer to bid for the inspection and testing of water based fire protection systems as defined by chapter 18.160 RCW and this chapter. However, the inspection and testing of any fire pump system, deluge, preaction, foam, or chemical based fire protection system is not allowed by this license, nor is any sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor allowed to perform any maintenance on a water or chemical based fire protection system.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 212-80-140 Inspection and testing license not transferable.** A license issued under this regulation is not transferable.

**EXCEPTION:** Should a currently licensed inspection and testing contractor merge or form another company, that license can be reissued to the newly formed/incorporated company provided:

- (1) The principal officers of the licensed company remain the same;
- (2) Continues, takes over, or otherwise reestablishes the bond required by chapter 18.160 RCW for licensing;
- (3) Continues to perform inspection and testing contractor work as defined by chapter 212-80 WAC;
- (4) Employs at least one full-time inspection and testing technician; and
- (5) Meets the criteria necessary for licensing as an inspection and testing contracting company as defined by chapter 212-80 WAC.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-145 Sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor responsibilities. (1) Any employee of a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor who physically performs inspection and testing of water based fire protection systems shall be certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as an inspection and testing technician as defined in WAC 212-80-170. Under no condition can a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor perform any inspection and testing of water based fire protection systems without at least one employee on staff certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as a qualified inspection and testing technician, to physically perform any such work.

(2) If a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor should at any time lose all inspection and testing technicians certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, that company is no longer able to perform work in Washington state as a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor. Further, all work currently being performed by this contractor will be halted until such time as the company is able to employ full time at least one state certified inspection and testing technician to personally complete any existing physical work.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-150 Inspection and testing contractor license renewals. (1) All licensed sprinkler system inspection and testing contractors desiring to continue to be licensed shall secure from the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, prior to January 1 of each year, a renewal license upon payment of the fee as prescribed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(2) Application for renewal shall be upon a form prescribed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and the license holder shall furnish the information required by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(3) Failure of any license holder to secure his or her renewal license within sixty days after the due date shall constitute sufficient cause for the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to suspend the license.

(4) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may restore a license that has been suspended. In addition to other provisions of this regulation, any of the following will constitute cause for the chief of the

Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, not to restore a license that has been suspended:

- (a) Nonreceipt of payment of all delinquent fees;
- (b) Nonreceipt of a late charge and/or application fee;
- (c) Any evidence or complaint which verifies that employees of the sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor have performed inspection and testing technician work without being certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection;
- (d) Failure to comply with the bonding requirements of chapter 18.160 RCW; and
- (e) Failure to obtain or show evidence of having at least one full-time certified sprinkler system inspection and testing technician.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 212-80-155 Sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor--Prorated fees.** The initial license fee shall be prorated based upon the portion of the year such license is in effect. This is allowed only once in the history of the company.

EXCEPTION: Any sprinkler system inspection and testing contracting company who is required to be licensed as a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, after performing work covered by this chapter and chapter 18.160 RCW shall be required to pay the full annual licensing fee, in addition to any penalties assessed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for unlicensed operation(s).

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 212-80-160 Sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor--Surety bonds.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall not issue a license under this regulation unless the sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor has in their possession and files with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, a surety bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington in the sum of six thousand dollars, conditioned to compensate third-party losses caused by the acts of the principal or the principal's servant, officer, agent, or employee in conducting the business registered or licensed under this regulation.

(2) Upon approval by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, property or cash may substitute for a surety bond provided the value is at least six thousand dollars and the property or cash is not otherwise



encumbered. The value of property shall be determined by an appraiser selected by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection. All appraisal fees shall be paid by the sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor.

## INSPECTION AND TESTING TECHNICIAN

### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-165 Inspection and testing of water based fire protection systems. (1) All inspection and testing certificates, documentation, and/or other such records of work shall have affixed to them the inspection and testing technician number as provided by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and shall possess the signature of the inspection and testing technician and the date of signature.

(2) Under no condition shall any employee working for a sprinkler system inspection and testing contractor perform any inspection and testing work on a water based fire protection system unless they possess certification as a competent inspection and testing technician by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(3) Wallet cards shall be issued by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and shall contain the name and technician number of the inspection and testing technician, the expiration date of the current certification, a place for the signature of the inspection and testing technician, and the date of the signature.

(4) An original signature shall appear on each page of documentation for all inspection and testing certificates for water based fire protection sprinkler systems conducted by the inspection and testing technician.

### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-170 Inspection and testing technicians--Work allowed by this certification. (1) Possessing certification as an inspection and testing technician from the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, shall allow an individual to perform only inspection and testing of water based

fire protection systems, with the exception of preaction, deluge, or systems with fire pumps.

(2) All inspection and testing certificates shall be signed by an inspection and testing technician possessing the proper certification by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-175 Inspection and testing technician--  
Certification. To become an inspection and testing technician under this regulation, an applicant must:

(1) Possess a National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies Inspection, Testing and Maintenance Level 2 or Level 3 certification; or

(2) Demonstrate satisfactory completion of educational elements as specified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, through the National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies.

(3) Provided the application for the inspection and testing technician certification is made prior to ninety days after final adoption of this rule, the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may in lieu of the examination requirements for an inspection and testing technician, issue a temporary inspection and testing technician certification. The terms for this temporary certification shall be as follows:

(a) The employer of each applicant must provide notarized affidavits and proper documentation attesting that in the last three years the applicant has had a minimum of four thousand hours experience in the installation, inspection, and/or testing of fire sprinkler systems. Each application will be reviewed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, and those found satisfactory shall be appointed a base time of one certification year as a temporary inspection and testing technician.

(b) Before the renewal of any temporary inspection and testing technician certification, the individual shall submit to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, sufficient evidence of a good faith effort in attaining certification as an inspection and testing technician as described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section. Such evidence shall qualify the temporary inspection and testing technician for an extension as a temporary inspection and testing technician for not more than a single-certification-year.

(c) No temporary inspection and testing technician shall be allowed more than one base certification year. No temporary inspection and testing technician shall be allowed more than two single-certification-year extensions as a temporary inspection and

testing technician. No single-certification-year extension will be issued without first providing evidence of a good faith effort in attempting to attain certification as an inspection and testing technician as described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section. No individual shall possess temporary inspection and testing technician certification for a period of more than three certification-years in the life of the individual, which must be consecutive in nature.

(d) At the end of the base year or any extensions, the temporary inspection and testing technician may provide to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, satisfactory evidence of attaining certification as an inspection and testing technician as described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section. Such evidence shall qualify the individual to become an inspection and testing technician.

(e) Any temporary inspection and testing technician who fails to meet the qualifications described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section after the expiration of either their temporary status, or who does not show satisfactory evidence qualifying them for any of two one-certification-year extensions as described in (c) of this subsection, shall not be renewed as a temporary inspection and testing technician and not allowed to continue performing such work until such time as they meet the qualification requirements described in subsection (1) or (2) of this section.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-180 Application/fees for inspection and testing technician certification. Every applicant for certification as an inspection and testing technician shall apply to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, on application forms provided and pay the fees required.

#### NEW SECTION

WAC 212-80-185 Inspection and testing technician certification not transferable. An inspection and testing technician certification issued under this regulation is not transferable. This certification can, however, follow the inspection and testing technician to another employer provided that employer is currently licensed by this office for work covered by this certification.

#### NEW SECTION

##### **WAC 212-80-188 Inspection and testing technician employment.**

(1) In no case shall an inspection and testing technician be employed full time by more than one fire protection sprinkler system contractor at the same time.

(2) If the inspection and testing technician should leave the employment of the fire protection sprinkler system contractor, he or she shall notify the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, within thirty days of the last day of employment.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 212-80-190 Inspection and testing technician renewal certificates.** (1) All inspection and testing technicians who desire to maintain a current certificate shall, prior to January 1 of each year, apply for renewal to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, on the appropriate form along with the required fees as prescribed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(2) Application for renewal forms shall be provided by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, upon request, and the technician shall furnish the information required by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection.

(3) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, may suspend the inspection and testing technician certification for failure to apply for a renewal of their technician certificate within sixty days after the expiration date.

(4) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, upon receipt of payment for all delinquent fees and a late charge may restore an inspection and testing technician certification that had been suspended.

#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 212-80-195 Inspection and testing technician--Prorated fees.** The initial inspection and testing technician fee shall be prorated based upon the portion of the year such certification is in effect, prior to renewal on January 1.

**EXCEPTION:** Any individual who attempts to certify with the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as an inspection and testing technician after performing work covered by this chapter and chapter 18.160 RCW shall be



required to pay the full annual certification fees, in addition to any penalties assessed by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, for uncertified operation(s).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-200 Suspension or revocation of licenses.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection may refuse to issue or renew or may suspend or revoke the privilege of a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor or the license of an inspection and testing contractor to engage in the fire protection sprinkler system business or may establish penalties as prescribed by Washington state law for any of the following reasons:

(a) Gross incompetency or gross negligence in the preparation of layout drawings, installation, repair, alteration, maintenance, inspection, service, or addition to fire protection sprinkler systems.

(b) Conviction of a felony.

(c) Fraudulent or dishonest practices while engaging in the fire protection sprinkler systems business.

(d) Use of false evidence or misrepresentation in an application for a license.

(e) Permitting his or her license to be used in connection with the installation of any system when such installation is not under his or her supervision, or in violation of this regulation.

(f) Knowingly violating any provisions of this regulation or chapter 18.160 RCW.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection shall revoke the license of a licensed fire protection sprinkler system contractor or an inspection and testing contractor who engages in the fire protection sprinkler system business while the license is suspended.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-205 Suspension or revocation of certificates.** (1) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection may refuse to issue or renew or may suspend or revoke the privilege of a certificate of competency holder as defined in RCW 18.160.101(1) or of a state certified fire sprinkler system inspection and testing technician, as defined in WAC 212-80-010, to engage in the fire protection sprinkler system business or

may establish penalties as prescribed by Washington state law for any of the following reasons:

(a) Gross incompetency or gross negligence in the preparation of layout drawings, installation, repair, alteration, maintenance, inspection, service, or addition to fire protection sprinkler systems.

(b) Conviction of a felony.

(c) Fraudulent or dishonest practices while engaging in the fire protection sprinkler systems business.

(d) Use of false evidence or misrepresentation in an application for a certificate of competency.

(e) Permitting his or her certificate to be used in connection with the preparation of any layout drawings, installation, maintenance, inspection, service or certification of any system when such activity is not under his or her supervision, or in violation of this regulation.

(f) Knowingly violating any provisions of this regulation or chapter 18.160 RCW.

(2) The chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection shall revoke the certificate of a certificate of competency holder or a state certified fire sprinkler inspection and testing technician who engages in the fire protection sprinkler system business while the certificate of competency is suspended.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 05-05-006, filed 2/4/05, effective 3/7/05)

**WAC 212-80-265 Type III (serious) violations.** (1) Type III violations are subject to penalties ranging from five hundred dollars to five thousand dollars a day depending on instance and in accordance with chapter 212-80 WAC.

(2) Examples of Type III violations include, but are not limited to:

(a) Demonstrating gross incompetency or gross negligence in the preparation of technical drawings, the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, alteration, ~~((maintenance, inspection,))~~ service, and/or addition to a fire sprinkler system.

(b) Allowing an employee to demonstrate gross incompetency or gross negligence in the installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, alteration, ~~((maintenance, inspection,))~~ service and/or addition to a fire sprinkler system.

(c) Charging a customer for fire sprinkler work not performed.

(d) Offering to contract for fire sprinkler work without a certificate of competency holder, as described in RCW 18.160.040.

(e) Allowing an employee to falsify any fire sprinkler tags, labels, or inspection reports.

(f) Working without a certified full-time certificate of competency holder on staff, or, in the case of an inspection and testing contractor, allowing any employee not certified by the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, as an inspection and testing technician.

(g) Falsifying an application or document submitted to the chief of the Washington state patrol, through the director of fire protection, to obtain a sprinkler contractor license or certificate of competency.

(h) Committing three or more Level II offenses within a three year period either as a company, through an employee of the company, through an employee acting as a certificate of competency holder for the company, and/or any combination thereof.

(i) Permitting his or her license to be used in connection with the stamping of any test certificates for work performed by someone other than his or her full-time employees.